

Message Text

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SUBJ: UN COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES (CNR): AGENDA ITEMS
5B AND 5C

1. AGENDA ITEMS 5B AND 5C, COVERING MINERALS AND INFORMATION-
PROJECTIONS, RESPECTIVELY, WERE DEBATED IN ADVANCE OF 5A
(ENERGY) AT THE REQUEST OF VENEZUELA AND OTHER DELEGATIONS
WHO ARE EXPERTS AT CIEC.

AGENDA ITEM 5B

2. DISCUSSION OF MINERAL ISSUES CENTERED AROUND PROPOSALS
IN UN DOCUMENT E/C.7/68, WITH THIRTEEN DELEGATIONS INCLUDING
THE US PARTICIPATING. SUPPORT FOR A STUDY GROUP TO MONITOR
PROGRESS ON PROJECTS WAS MIXED, BUT THERE WAS GENERAL
AGREEMENT ON PROJECTS WAS MIXED, BUT THERE WAS GENERAL
AGREEMENT ON A PERMANENT AGENDA ITEM ON RECYCLING AND SUB-
STITUTION. THE FEW DELEGATIONS WHO MENTIONED INVESTIGATIONS
OF ECONOMIC, SOCIAL, AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ISSUES BY THE
SECRETARIAT SUPPORTED THE PROPOSAL. NO DELEGATIONS FULLY
SUPPORTED THE PROPOSAL FOR AN ADVISORY SERVICE ON
INVESTMENT ISSUES, MOST OF THEM EXPRESSING CONCERN OVER
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PROLIFERATION AND OVERLAP OF UN AGENCIES AND ACTIVITIES.
TWO DELEGATIONS (FRANCE AND SWEDEN) GAVE QUALIFIED SUPPORT
TO THE SUGGESTION OF A MINERAL INVESTMENT TRUST, BUT ALL
THE OTHER DELEGATIONS WHO SPOKE WERE OPPOSED TO IT, MOST OF
THEM STRESSING THE USE OF EXISTING INSTITUTIONS, PARTICULARLY
THE WORLD BANK.

3. THE SOVIET DELEGATION OPPOSED THE ADVISORY SERVICE AND INVESTMENT TRUST ON THE GROUNDS THAT THESE COULD BE HANDLED BETTER THROUGH BILATERAL ARRANGEMENTS, AND CITED SOME OF THEIR BILATERAL PROJECTS AS EVIDENCE. THE US DELEGATION PRESENTED AN INTERVENTION SUPPORTING THE STUDY GROUP, RECYCLING ITEM, AND IMPACT INVESTIGATIONS. WE CALLED FOR FURTHER INFORMATION AND CONSIDERATION OF THE INVESTMENT TRUST. ON THE ADVISORY SERVICE, US DEL NOTED ROLE OF TRANS-NATIONAL CENTER AND OTHER AGENCIES, URGED THE CENTER ON NATURAL RESOURCES ENERGY AND TRANSPORT (CNRET) TO BE IN TOUCH WITH THEM, AND NOTED WE COULD NOT SUPPORT PROPOSAL AS NOW GIVEN. A COPY OF THE UN INTERVENTION IS BEING SENT BY POUCH TO KAHN (IO/IEP).

4. DELEGATIONS WERE VIRTUALLY UNANIMOUS IN PRAISING THE SECRETARIAT FOR ITS REPORT ON RAW MATERIALS FOR THE COPPER INDUSTRY (UN DOCUMENT E/C.7/65) ALTHOUGH SEVERAL EXPRESSED

DISAGREEMENT WITH THE PROJECTIONS OF GROWTH IN DEMAND AND SOME OTHER ASPECTS OF THE REPORT. THE SOVIET UNION EXPRESSED THE VIEW THAT THE CNRET MIGHT BE ASKED TO PREPARE A SIMILAR REPORT ON RAW MATERIALS FOR NICKEL. IN CONSULTATIONS BETWEEN THE US AND CANADIAN DELEGATIONS, IT WAS AGREED THAT CHROMITE WOULD BE A MORE IMPORTANT SUBJECT FOR SUCH A REPORT, AND THE CANADIANS SUBSEQUENTLY INTRODUCED A RESOLUTION TO THIS EFFECT. THE SOVIETS INTRODUCED A RESOLUTION RELATIVE TO NICKEL. BOTH WERE PASSED.

AGENDA ITEM 6C

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5. ONLY EIGHT DELEGATIONS INCLUDING THE US DISCUSSED THIS ITEM, BUT A NUMBER OF INTERESTING COMMENTS WERE MADE. THE SOVIET DEL CALLED ATTENTION TO THE EXTENSIVE MAP AND REPORT COMPILATION WORK DONE IN THEIR COUNTRY, RESULTS OF WHICH THEY SAID WERE AVAILABLE TO ANYONE. THE GDR AND SOVIET DELS BOTH STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF ISSUING DEMAND-SUPPLY PROJECTIONS. THE UNITED KINGDOM DEL QUESTIONED THE VALUE OF THE VARIOUS DOCUMENTS ISSUED BY CNRET IN TERMS OF ACTUAL USE IN LDS'S, TO WHICH REPLIED WITH DISTRIBUTION

STATISTICS AND PAST CITATIONS BY ECOSOC.

6. THE US DEL ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT PLANS FOR ISSUING TECHNICAL DOCUMENTS AND FOR REMOTE SENSING FACILITIES AS MENTIONED IN UN DOCUMENT E/C.7/72. BAUM REPLIED THAT FOUR ECONOMIC REVIEWS WILL BE ISSUED IN 1978 AND FIVE IN 1979, AND PAPERS ON TECHNICAL DEVELOPMENTS INCLUDING NEW EXPLORATION TECHNIQUES WILL BE ISSUED AT IRREGULAR INTERVALS.

ON PLANS FOR A REMOTE SENSING FACILITY, THE REPLY WAS VAGUE, ESPECIALLY IN REGARD TO COORDINATION WITH REGIONAL AND NATIONAL REMOTE SENSING PROGRAMS. IN RESPONSE TO A SECOND US INTERVENTION, IT WAS AGREED THAT CNRET WOULD PREPARE A REPORT FOR THE NEXT SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE, SUMMARIZING THE PROGRAMS AND PLANS IN THE VARIOUS REMOTE SENSING CENTERS.SORENSEN

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